**BAD RESPONSE**

Phones have been around a long time, back to the 19th century in fact. Now, however, they are everywhere thanks to a guy named Steve Jobs and the Apple company. Smartphones are a more recent development and allow users to do many different things. Smartphones have impacted the modern world by changing how people communicate and interact with each other in many important ways.

Document one is an article about smartphones written by CNN. It calls smartphones the “swiss army knife” of the modern world, meaning it has many functions it can do. The purpose of this source is to let people know about what cell phones can do.

Document two is from an American radio broadcast. The audience for this show is Americans with a radio who are interested in the topic of cell phones. This except explains that smartphones cause loneliness.

Document three is from the Washington Post. This article talks about how smartphones have made Obama and Trump president. The Washington Post is biased so this source should be taken with a grain of salt.

Document four is a cartoon showing people using their smartphones at a variety of locations across the United States. This shows that the United States has good cell phone coverage from coast to coast, which has made smartphone use easier.

Document five is from another newspaper. It explains that now that we have smartphones no one should suffer from stupidity – which is a clever turn of a phrase. This article supports my argument because it talks about how people now use google a lot to learn about things, but really it’s just about cat videos and memes.

Document six is a chart showing that people use their phones a lot and young people seem to use their phones a lot more. This is important because it means as old people die that more people will be using smartphones.

To conclude, smartphones have changed the world in terms of how people communicate. They can now much more easily send and view silly photos of themselves anywhere on earth. Fortnite is a game people play on their phones.

**GOOD RESPONSE**

Since the “Industrial Revolution” of the early 19th century, humanity has developed all manner of new tools and technologies to enhance our lives – many of these have come with both positive and negative impacts. The telephone, for example, dates back to the last part of 19th century, and early cell phone technology was a product of the 20th century, but the smartphone is entire of the 21st century. Each iteration of this device has been transformative in terms of how people can communicate in both the distances covered and speed of communication. The smartphone is unique, however, and it plays a role in a variety of ways including the so-called “gig economy”, the development of social media and various tools that transform activities as broad as exercise, transportation and obtaining food. While clearly there are downsides to this new technology including things like overuse and at times greater unhappiness, on balance the impact of the smartphone has been positive in two critical areas, namely, giving people easy access to more information, and aiding in political organizing.

One of the largest and most important impacts of smartphone technology is in giving people greater access to information. Smartphones for most people serve a variety of functions – many of which enhance daily life. For example, people can now accomplish the routine tasks of life such as ordering groceries, obtaining directions, and keeping track of work/school emails all from their phone. The author of document 1 acknowledges the usefulness of smartphone technology. Sutter describes how today’s smartphones are able to use things like GPS and other sensors to provide all manner of applications. Document 5 also highlights how smartphones are changing the way humans both obtain and process information. The need to remember vast amounts of data is no longer as relevant – more important now is the skill to process that data and to think critically about the information we take in. Phillips in his article points out that 60% of all internet traffic is via cell phones, and this is likely to increase. With over 1 billion google searches a day (as of 2011) clearly major changes are afoot. These changes are for the better because people now have access to information like never before. This could include important things like medical professionals accessing the most up-to-date medical studies or more mundane issues like someone looking for a good gluten-free restaurant nearby.

Another critically important benefit of smartphone technology is its ability to help citizens organize. Social media has made it easier to connect with people in ways that were impossible even 20 years ago. Part of the impact of this has been its much easier now to organize and inform citizens and citizen movements. Some politicians have started using this technology to reach out to people bypassing the traditional political party controlled forms of communication. Document 3, by David Von Drehle of the Washington Post highlights this point. In this document he argues that both Obama and Trump found success by reaching out directly to ordinary Americans without having to work through traditional party structures. Document 3 is an editorial -- which does require one to be a bit skeptical about its overall veracity -- especially since it is clearly in favor of my own position. But in this case, the objective facts speak for themselves. Regardless of what you think about either candidate, there is no question that via social media and smartphone technology both candidates have found it easier to put their message out to the voters, and in Trump’s case Twitter has allowed him to more directly communicate with the world as a whole. Outside the United States smartphones and social media have powered revolutions in Egypt and elsewhere. Environmental activism and social justice movements have also benefitted from the smartphone. On the negative side, these technologies have also made it easier for neo-Nazis to organize, but it has also led to their public exposure and imposed a social cost on their bigotry and hatred.

Critics of smartphone technology claim that it fosters dependency in people and can decrease overall life satisfaction.

(insert discussion of counterclaim here) Examine docs 2, 4 and 6. Argue they are somewhat correct, but overlook important factors. Source both document 2 and document 4

Conclusion – add in thoughts about the future of smartphone technology (more context) and restate the thesis in a different way than I stated it in the introduction.